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Hunt Me. The Great State of Maine Hunting

Maine Department of Economic Development

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WHEN TO COME

Different open seasons on the various kinds of animals in Maine offer opportunity for hunting some kind of game the year round. The major hunting season, beginning about Oct. 1 and lasting into the snow season provides varied conditions for the hunter. For specific opening and closing dates refer to the law booklet mentioned inside.

Sunday hunting is prohibited; so is night hunting except for raccoon and skunk.

WHERE TO GO

Merrymeeting Bay, at the mouth of the Kennebec River, is one of the most famous duck hunting regions in the east. Other salt-water bays and inlets, plus the many inland lakes and waterways, are feeding grounds for countless water-birds, and are hunting grounds of eager duck hunters each fall. Maine has 17 million acres of forest and woodland. Frequent cutting opens new areas and improves conditions for wildlife. Deer have increased near populated areas but the wild lands also produce wonderful specimens. There are heavily wooded sections with logging roads for hunting and there are alder runs and hardwood ridges; plenty of clear water in mountain streams and lowlands among stands of hardwood mixed with coniferous trees; sunny slopes, where beeches and maples grow; occasional patches of wild raspberry bushes and nubbles of black growth--all these are excellent environment for deer. ("Nubbles" are rounding little hills and "black growth" is Maine phraseology for spruce and fir trees.) The hunter has a choice of covers. Check maps and write to sporting camp operators to choose the terrain you like best.

ACCESS: Most of the hunting areas can be reached by public roads, but in extensive areas of the Forestry District the only roads are those built and maintained by the owners and operators of these professionally managed woodlands. These are working roads for the forest-products industries, but the owners share many miles of their roads with the public for recreation and hunting. Each company has its own policy for such use--some roads are generally open; some have road access fees; some require permits. At times entrance requests exceed facilities and safety factors, especially during fall hunting season. So, for hunting in these areas, it is wise to plan your trip and apply for permits in advance. Contact the companies whose roads you plan to use. Information can be obtained from: Paper Industry Information Office, 133 State St. Augusta, Maine 04330.

PREPARATION & SAFETY: If you plan to hunt in the remote areas, please remember that they are remote-- from stores, gas and other supplies, and remote from hospital emergency-rooms. We hope you won't need first-aid treatment for hunting accidents, but every year too many do. Hunting accidents are never pleasant - and in the deep woods...! Go prepared, and exercise every sensible safety precaution. Remember, too, that a good compass and map may be more important than your gun, but won't do you any good unless you know how to use them.

WHAT TO BRING

Hunters should check law booklets to find in what areas wearing hunter-orange is required. Bring enough wool shirts, sox and warm underwear. Water repellent and waterproof outer garments add to the comfort of the hunter, particularly the waterfowler. A good map, compass, matches and fire kindlers are advisable; and a large knife and an ax. Of course you'll remember your actual hunting implements: guns and ammo, bow and arrows, or camera. And Maine stores are well stocked with sporting equipment and supplies.

CAMPING and FIRES

More than 98% of the forestland in Maine is privately owned, and, while most of the woodland owners willingly share their land in a multiple-use concept, sportsmen should recognize and respect property rights. 10½ million acres comprise the Maine Forestry District. Here, in cooperation with the land-owners, Authorized Forest Campsites and Lunchgrounds are administered by the Maine Forest Service and maintained for public use. Approximate locations are indicated on the current Official Highway Map. It is lawful to camp or to kindle out-of-door fires only at authorized sites unless a special permit is first obtained from a Maine Forest Ranger. Outside the Forestry District permission must be obtained from the landowner. See publication, "Forest Campsites", for details. Out-of-door fires include the use of sterno, gasoline, charcoal, or other fuel fires in or out of tents and collapsible shelters. Such fuels may be used at State Highway picnic areas with fire-places.

Each year much valuable woodland is devastated by fires because campers or hunters fail to use enough caution with camp fires, matches, and smokers' materials while in the forest. Please be very careful, and help keep Maine green.

Several commercially operated campgrounds are open in the major hunting season. A few are open year-round. See booklet "Family Camping in Maine" listed in Publications section.

THIS VACATION PLANNER

provides brief information on the hunting of game birds and animals, with guns or camera or with bow and arrow; when to come, where to go, what to bring; camping and fire requirements; and suggestions for your guidance and safety. It also lists sources of other specific information to help you plan a pleasant, satisfying hunting vacation.

* * * * *

One in a series of Vacation Planners programmed by the Maine Department of Economic Development, available from 78 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102. Prospective visitors to Maine are interested in the "facts", and these brochures are designed with this in mind. We would appreciate receiving your comments.

Please write:

Maine Department of Economic Development
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

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State House, Augusta, Maine 04330

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Hunt Me.

The Great State of Maine
Hunting

Maine Economic Development
Department



WHEN IT COMES TO HUNTING

..... COME TO MAINE!

We are pleased that you are thinking about hunting in Maine, for we know well what an enjoyable experience is in store for you. The crisp autumn air, the good companionship of fellow sportsmen, and the excitement of hunting are an excellent tonic.

Maine is proud of her hunting opportunities -- not only for the king-size white-tail deer we have, but also for the many other game species described in this folder. You'll find an excellent variety, and you will have an opportunity to bring home a real trophy.

A word on safety: outdoor recreation, particularly hunting, requires that we be alert. The wearing of hunter orange, while not required statewide, is a sensible precaution we hope you'll take.

Good luck! I wish you a safe and successful trip!

Ronald T. Speers
Commissioner

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game

PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SOURCES

Publications Mentioned in This Folder:

Forest Campsites -- Maine Forest Service
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

Maine Hunting and Trapping Laws Summary; Bear Hunting in Maine -- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game

State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

Family Camping in Maine -- Me. Cooperative Camping Ass'n, available from Maine Publicity Bureau

Other Information and Publications about Maine:

Mail inquiries about hunting accommodations will be answered by Maine Publicity Bureau (address below)

Maine Department of Economic Development
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

Maine Publicity Bureau
78 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102

State of Maine Information Center
48 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, N. Y. 10020

State of Maine Information Center
Laurentien Hotel, Dominion, Montreal, Canada

Other Information Centers:

Jct. of U. S. Rt. 1 & Me. Turnpike, Kittery, Maine
Bass Park, Bangor, Maine

U. S. Rt. 302, Fryeburg, Maine (summer only)

Maine Turnpike, North
Cumberland, Maine (summer only)

Internat'l Bridge, Calais, Maine (summer only)

All Local Chamber of Commerce Offices

ARCHERY

Maine has a special deer season for bow and arrow hunters; this open season falls within dates when deer are still undisturbed by other hunters. Other legal game, too, may be hunted while the license is valid. Carrying firearms while bow-hunting is illegal during this special season. Bow-hunting may be done also during the gun season on deer, but then a regular hunting license is required.

MAINE BOWHUNTER'S CLUB. Any of the larger game animals taken qualify archers for a membership card, signed by the Governor and the Commissioner of Fish and Game, and an attractive shoulder patch cut in the shape of the map of Maine. These are awarded each person qualifying who writes to The Department of Economic Development including this information: Name, address, species of game, date shot, where, approximate weight of animal, pull of bow.

BIRD HUNTING

Duck: With hundreds of miles of coast and thousands of inland waters, Maine offers excellent duck shooting. Many ducks breed in Maine, and in the fall thousands of birds tarry here during southerly migration.

The popular ducks: Black, Scaup, Goldeneye, Ringneck, Mallards and other species. Some Canada geese are shot. Offshore shooting is for sea ducks: Eiders, Scoters, etc.

Partridge, or Ruffed Grouse: recognized king of Maine upland game birds. A comparatively big bird, fast on the getaway, he is wary and presents a difficult shot. The partridge is found throughout the state.

Pheasant: Each year thousands are hatched at the State Game Farm in Gray. The Inland Fisheries and Game Department stocks many covers statewide and supervises other stocking of pheasants in a cooperative plan with Maine sportsmen. Covers which are usually most productive are found in coastal counties and inland to central Maine.

Woodcock, or "timber doodle": a magnificent little game bird. Maine is one of the greatest breeding grounds in the country for this migratory bird. Because woodcock "lie close", dogs are almost a necessity when hunting them. Once flushed, the woodcock's erratic flight challenges the marksmanship of the wing-shot.

CAMERA HUNTING

Stalking animals and birds with a camera is both exciting and challenging. There is no closed season on this form of hunting; and you may hunt moose and caribou--even eagles--with a camera, whereas to shoot them any other way brings a severe penalty. Your "trophies" may be a magnificent buck posed for flight; a bear-cub clowning; a moose feeding in a stream; or a majestic eagle soaring. For some of this you will need good equipment with telephoto or telescopic lens, and the best of hunting skill.

HUNTING DOGS

In dense cover long-haired bird dogs are preferred: English, Gordon or Irish Setters, or Brittanies; but some choose an English Pointer or German shorthair. For waterfowl hunting much of it in tidal water--the heavier breeds are wise choices: Golden, Chesapeake, or Labrador; but Springer Spaniel or other retrievers are useful. Beagles and other rabbit dogs are happy afield in Maine, with plenty of snowshoe hares in most sections. Coon dogs and fox dogs can be kept busy, too. When hunting bobcats, rugged hounds are best: Walkers and Redbones, or specially bred dogs like White Mountain Bear and Cat Dogs. Black Bears give the strongest hounds a real challenge. There are few trained bear dog packs in Maine now, but the sport is growing steadily. Hunting deer with dogs is illegal in Maine.

GAME HUNTING

Bear: Maine has a large population of bears. Both hunting and trapping are allowed.

MAINE BLACK BEAR CLUB: a card and shoulder patch are awarded to applicants who legally have shot a bear weighing 100 pounds or more. Game wardens will provide information on how to obtain membership. All bear killed must be registered. Hunting law book gives details.

Bobcat: Although ferocious in appearance, bobcats are extremely shy, and are taken chiefly by running them with dogs, a sport that can be extremely exciting. Numerous throughout the state there is no closed season on them.

Canada Lynx: protected; no open season.

Caribou: scarce; no open season.

Deer: Virginia, or White-tailed Deer are found in every township in the state.

BIGGEST BUCKS IN MAINE CLUB: Game wardens have application cards for those who shoot a buck weighing at least 200 pounds woods-dressed. A membership card and shoulder patch are issued to qualified applicants.

Fox: Plenty of Red Fox in Maine. Any place where fox abound, unleash your hound and both the dog and you will get action. The Maine fox is hardy, shift - and will give you and your dog a real run.

Moose: The moose herd is growing but these animals are protected for the camera and as a natural attraction, in Maine.

Raccoon: Unlike the fox, the 'coon will "tree" before going far. Hunting is done mostly at night when the hunters follow the baying hounds. The new note in the song of the hounds tells when the quarry has been treed.

Rabbit: Distributed throughout the state in large numbers, the snowshoe hare makes popular hunting sport in Maine, particularly in the farm regions where rabbit dogs abound.

Sable: No open season.

Other Game Animals: Fisher, Mink, Muskrat, Otter, Skunk, Squirrel.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Maine sporting camps are where the hunting is. Some, usually located deep in the woods country, offer "luxury" in the rough, for those who want to live ruggedly for awhile. Or you can enjoy the comforts of a gracious little inn and still be in excellent hunting territory.

GUIDES

Good guides are available at sporting camps. Many chambers of commerce, and hotel or motel staffs can recommend guides. Maine guides know the territory in which they operate, and where game is most apt to be. They are willing to meet your party at your sporting camp and accompany you into the woods each day, or take you by canoe into wilderness areas, tenting at night.

HUNTING LAWS

Hunting laws of the State change from time to time so details are not given here. These are printed in the booklet "Hunting and Trapping Laws Summary" (issued by Department of Inland Fisheries and Game) provided with your license.